

of the lobbying corruption we have witnessed over the last year from the other side of the aisle.

#### PREACH ON, MR. PRESIDENT

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our President was caught on camera, on microphone, and off the cuff yesterday. He said: "What they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this (non-sense), and it's over."

He told Tony Blair he felt like telling U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to get on the phone with Syria's President and "make something happen." After all, that's Annan's job.

What he said was the truth. I am glad we got to hear his candor, his straight talk, his no nonsense analyzing the problem: Syria can stop this border war.

He stated: "Hezbollah is housed and encouraged by Syria and financed by Iran."

Our President left out the politically correct niceties and cut to the chase.

Mr. President, preach on, preach on. The blunt blazing truth without any fluff is what needs to be said. We know who is behind the attacks against Israel and we know who can stop it. It is time all people of the world hold the aggressive Hezbollah terrorist thugs accountable for starting this border war.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 4376, the Springfield Armory National Historic Site, Massachusetts Act of 2005. This legislation authorizes the National Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the superb Springfield Technical Community College.

The Springfield Armory Museum is home to Longfellow's famous gun rack which inspired the arsenal at Springfield, home to the Springfield rifle, the Gerrand rifle, the site of Shay's rebellion and located on the Knox Trail which General Knox used and traversed as he moved to Boston and Dorchester for those fateful days of the American Revolution.

This legislation seeks to recognize and update the partnership between the Park Service and the college by authorizing the Park Service to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Commonwealth to provide financial assistance to the college for the purpose of maintaining, preserving, renovating and rehabilitating many of the historic structures within the Springfield National Historic Site.

This is a very important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, and it actually will allow a cooperative agreement to take place that will transform the complexion of what is also the site of the famous Olmstead Papers. I am grateful for this recognition that the House offered yesterday on behalf of these two individual sites.

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#### REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share good news with the American people. Republicans' pro-growth economic agenda, combined with spending restraint, is driving the deficit down while pushing revenues up. In fact, if we can continue along this path of fiscal restraint, we will cut the deficit in half by the year 2008.

In addition to decreasing the deficit, the economy has created 2 million new jobs in the past year. In fact, over the past 3 years America has created more new jobs than Japan and all 25 members of the European Union combined.

Mr. Speaker, tax cuts are working. Our economy is strong and the deficit is down.

Republicans have been working tirelessly and successfully to push our economy in the right direction. Democrats, on the other hand, continue to push their tax and spend policies, a plan which is neither good for the family checkbook nor the American economy.

#### CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Regional Health Forum that was held on July 7 in Los Angeles, California.

The Hispanic Caucus and Congressmember JOHN CONYERS from the Black Caucus came together with over 200 community activists to find a new direction to battle health care disparities in disadvantaged communities.

The new direction that we have adopted ensures quality health care that is accessible, affordable and culturally and linguistically appropriate.

An accessible and culturally sensitive health care system is critical to addressing conditions that disproportionately impact communities of color like, for example, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, HIV and AIDS, and mental illness. All these chronic illnesses affect our communities.

The new direction developed at the forum is one where community members, providers and policymakers at the local, State and Federal levels come together to collaborate to end health

care disparities; and we plan for solutions in the next upcoming congressional session.

We came together with the Hispanic Caucus at this forum in Los Angeles, and we will continue to take the show on the road throughout the country to ensure that all Americans have a healthier system of health care.

#### IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the time for an increase in the minimum wage has not just arrived; it is long overdue. The national minimum wage has not been increased in 9 years. By year's end, 21 States across America will have a minimum wage exceeding the Federal minimum wage. Isn't it about time that we in Washington recognize the need to act, to level the playing field? Of course it is. The way things are going, we are not too far from the day when it will take an hour's labor just to pay for the gasoline to get to the job. Then, if you are like most people and you want to go back home after you work, it is going to take you another hour's wages, 2 hours just for transportation for the minimum-wage worker.

What is left for the other essentials of life, to put a roof over your head and food on your table? Not very much.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, we need to act now to increase the national minimum wage.

#### QUESTIONING REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here are some of today's headlines:

"Toll Climbs in Mideast As Fighting Rages On."

"Scores Killed in Bomb Attack Near Shiite Shrine."

"Three U.S. Soldiers Killed on Monday."

"Taliban Capture Two Afghan Towns."

"Oil Futures At \$75 a Barrel."

"Wholesale Prices Climb 0.5 Percent in June."

"Heat Wave Strains Electric Systems Nationwide."

The Republican Congress's response is banning gay marriage. It is an obvious connection.

On this day nearly 2,000 years ago, Emperor Nero played his fiddle while Rome burned to the ground. This Congress would make the Emperor proud.

With all the challenges facing our Nation here at home and abroad, the Republican leadership is trying to distract the American people by playing the same old tunes, writing discrimination into the United States Constitution.

To govern is to choose, and the Republican Congress has made its priorities clear.

It is time for a new direction. It is time for a change.

#### MIDDLE EAST

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, for several generations now we have watched Middle Eastern-born terrorism intimidate, maim and kill Americans and our allies around the free world.

The images coming out of Israel and Lebanon are a sad, ugly replay of something we have seen far too often. Mr. Speaker, there is no easy solution to this problem, despite what some pundits on the talk show circuit would tell us. This is a fight between a nation and between terrorists who claim no nation.

It is simply unacceptable that Iran would be permitted to fund a terrorist organization like Hezbollah. It is unacceptable that the state-sponsored terrorist organization would be placed in another nation, Lebanon, in order to wage a steady war against one of our allies. That is what has been happening for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, our President is exactly right not to condemn Israel for taking actions to defeat its terrorist enemy.

#### A CLUELESS CONGRESS

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there is a conflagration in the Middle East. We are losing the war in Iraq. We are losing ground to the Taliban in Afghanistan. The stock market is crashing, gas prices are skyrocketing. We have raised the debt ceiling four times to \$9 trillion, all of which we are going to dump on the backs of our children, who we are inadequately educating, let alone creating a safer world for them.

And what are the Republican congressional leadership's priorities? To ban same-sex marriage, to ban flag burning, to ban stem cell research, to ban child safety locks on guns in the home, to ban abortion here and family planning abroad, to protect the pledge of allegiance, to cut \$20 billion from college student loan programs, to cut \$9 billion from elementary and secondary education. And, oh, yes, more tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, this has got to be the most clueless Congress in American history.

#### STEM CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last year this House passed the landmark stem cell bill, H.R. 810. We know that President Bush has already authorized research, even though it is arbitrary and artificially restricted, when he made his executive order allowing research on existing stem cell lines before 9 p.m. August 9, 2001, and prohibiting them after that date.

We know that in 2001 it was believed 78 stem cell lines existed. But now we know there are only 22 that are viable, and they have been contaminated with mouse stem cells.

We know that we are at a historic crossroad in Washington this week. We are either days away from this Congress passing this stem cell bill, or we are going to see delays for years. We know that this issue has united Americans into action across party lines. It includes over 80 Nobel Prize scientists. It counts hundreds of disease-fighting groups advocating for 110 million Americans who are afflicted with a genetic sentence to disability or death.

We know President Bush has signed over 1,000 bills into law. This is not the time to start with the Presidential roadblock of a veto.

#### TIME FOR A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the Middle East is near all-out war and the United States is on the sidelines hamstrung by the Bush occupation of Iraq. We will borrow \$1.3 billion today to run the government and hand the bill to our kids and grandkids.

Record gas prices are hamstringing family budgets and business. Record oil profits for the oil companies, and we are borrowing the money from Saudi Arabia and OPEC.

Now, these are difficult issues, and it would be tough to hammer out solutions here on the floor of the House, so the Republican majority has chosen to walk away from these issues of real concern to the American people and phony up an agenda full of dead-end bills designed for one purpose only, to excite the Republican right wing base and perpetuate their hegemony here in Congress.

Two fake stem cell bills to cover the first veto by this President of a meaningful stem cell bill that could provide relief to suffering Americans, paralyzed Americans, Americans with debilitating diseases. But, no, their ideologues won't allow that. They want medieval science to prevail here in Washington, D.C. It is time for a change in the leadership, to have a Congress that truly represents the needs of the American people, not a fringe element in this country.

#### MARRIAGE PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I

call up House Resolution 918 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 918

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour and 30 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.J. Res. 88 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the joint resolution to a time designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 918 is a closed rule. It provides 1 hour and 30 minutes of debate in the House equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees. This resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution, it provides one motion to recommit, and it provides that during consideration of the joint resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the joint resolution to a time designated by the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 918 and the underlying joint resolution, H.J. Res. 88, the Marriage Protection Act.

First, I would like to thank Representative MARILYN MUSGRAVE, the author and lead sponsor of this constitutional amendment, for her steadfast commitment to the preservation of traditional marriage.

As the manager of this rule and an original cosponsor of the underlying joint resolution, I am very pleased the House will have an opportunity today to consider and debate this very important amendment to our Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, the proceeding debate, both on the rule and the underlying resolution, either can be divisive and disrespectful, or it can be respectful and productive. This amendment has nothing whatsoever to do with exclusion, but it has everything to do with protecting the traditional and historical definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

Contrary to what the opponents of this resolution might say today, this amendment will simply preserve the